

**PRINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP
QUARTERLY MBO PROGRESS REPORT**

OBJECTIVE STATEMENT: Study Feasibility of Implementing
"Direct-to-Plate" Capability.
(Study - PPG/S01/90)

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:

STAT

QUARTER ENDING: March 1990

I. ACTIVITY THIS PERIOD:

During this reporting period we have made a thorough review of the vendor contacts made during the past twelve months.

The requirements developed by P&PG were reviewed by industry leaders and the consensus was that a market did not exist for such a product, and without significant R&D funding they could not see one being produced in the near future. However, in our survey we saw the individual components: composition system interfaces, speed and resolution, imposition schemes, and plate characteristics. If the pieces provided by individual companies were combined the result would be a suitable product.

With the "Direct-to-Plate" capability pursued to the fullest we turned our attention to the next best step which was "Direct-to-Film". In last quarter's report, Image Graphics Inc. (IGI) was found to be the leading candidate in this field. IGI's demonstrated ability to produce text and raster or vector images from digital data is impressive. However, their ability to receive data from our existing Atex and Xyvision systems and not to mention the system brought in by the FY-91 Initiative remains to be investigated.

II. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED:

The commercial market place has not developed a "direct-to-plate" capability which will meet P&PG functional requirements.

III. PLANS FOR NEXT PERIOD:

Due to the fact that no vendors could be identified that have the capability to provide a "Direct-to-Plate" system, we suggest this study be suspended until further developments in this technology warrant additional investigation. However, it is recommended that once the FY-91 Initiative vendor is selected that IGI's "Direct-to-Film" capabilities be reinvestigated. IGI's Electron Beam Recorder (EBR) has a great deal of potential to supplement or replace our Micro-Recording Unit (MRU) and increase our throughput time to the existing Rachwal system.

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Office: DA/OL/P&PG (PPG/S01/90)

Objective Statement: Study Feasibility of Implementing "Direct-to-Plate" Capability

Responsible Officer:

○ — Scheduled Activity

X — Activity Actually Completed

STAT

[illegible]

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Office: DDA/OL/P&PG

(PPG/S01/90)

Objective Statement: Study Feasibility of Implementing "Direct-to-Plate" Capability

Responsible Officer:

O — Scheduled

X — Actual

STAT

Activities Planned	Quarter 1			Quarter 2			Quarter 3			Quarter 4		
	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
1. Determine & document func. reqs. of Direct-to-Plate system (Completed in March 1989)												
2. Survey industry to identify vendors with direct-to-plate capability and applicability to P&PG reqs. (Completed in March 1989)												
3. Survey vendors to identify those with a reasonable chance of meeting P&PG reqs.			0									
4. Prepare efficiency of operation test; conduct test at a site specified by the vendor and record results						0						
5. Prepare final report with recommendations and funding requirements									0			